

HOUSE RESOLUTION 55

By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to urge the National Park Service to establish new units of Shiloh National Military Park for the purpose of preserving nationally significant historical and cultural sites.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has been the location of numerous historic events in the realm of American history and was the site of the Battle of Shiloh, the first major battle in the Western theater of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, during that two-day battle a total of 90,000 Union and Confederate troops clashed, resulting in nearly 24,000 killed, wounded and missing soldiers; and

WHEREAS, established in 1894, Shiloh National Military Park covers 4,000 acres at Shiloh, including the Shiloh National Cemetery and an interpretive center at Corinth, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, various sites within the city of Savannah, Tennessee played an integral role in the Battle of Shiloh; General Ulysses S. Grant made his headquarters at the foot of Main Street at the Cherry Mansion, a National Register of Historic Places property, where he waited for General D.C. Buell's Army of the Ohio; he heard the opening guns of the Battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862 from this location; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Battle of Shiloh, the Army of Tennessee made camp at Savannah and later many of the wounded were brought to Savannah for treatment. A large number of the dead were initially interred in Savannah's cemetery; and

WHEREAS, earlier in her existence Savannah saw members of the Cherokee Nation marched down the main street of the city on their way west during the Trail of Tears. Other Cherokee floated past Savannah on the Tennessee River during removal; and

WHEREAS, the Savannah waterfront is also the location of remnants of a major mound complex built by early Native American cultures, much like the Shiloh Indian Mounds National Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee River Museum, a regionally important facility located in Savannah, has adopted the mission of preserving and interpreting the rich cultural heritage of the lower Tennessee River Valley, sharing the many themes and goal with the National Park Service, and is often the first contact point for visitors coming from the north or east to see Shiloh Battlefield; and

WHEREAS, the Fallen Timbers site, located in Hardin and McNairy Counties of Tennessee, marks the site of the last action of the Battle of Shiloh; General Nathan Bedford Forrest fought a rear guard action against Union troops led by General William T. Sherman; and

WHEREAS, the Battle of Davis Bridge was the second largest battle fought in West Tennessee. The 584 acre site, located in McNairy and Hardeman Counties of Tennessee, is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of Shiloh National Military Park is vitally important to the education, benefit and inspiration of present and future generations of Americans; and

WHEREAS, it is equally important that those nationally significant historical and cultural sites, structures and districts in and around Shiloh National Military Park be designated as units of Shiloh National Military Park to ensure their preservation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby request the National Park Service to establish new units of Shiloh National Military Park to include significantly historic and cultural sites in Savannah, Tennessee, especially the Cherry Mansion, the Tennessee River Museum, the riverfront, the cemetery and other appropriate locations in addition to the Fallen Timbers site in Hardin and McNairy Counties of Tennessee and the Battle of Davis Bridge site in McNairy and Hardeman Counties of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and sent to the Director of the National Park Service.